

Making Inferences

An Essential Reading Skill



Making Inferences

- Writers won't tell you everything. Sometimes you need to figure out things on your own.
- You need to learn how to use everything you read and everything you already know. That's what an inference means – taking something you read and connecting it to something you know already to make an inference.



Making Inferences

“What I Learned”
+ “What I Already Know”

= Inference



For example, a character who is glaring and has clenched fists is probably angry. You do not know that for certain; you infer it.



What does
an angry
person
look like?

What does
an angry
person
sound like?



Reading Between Lines

- Reading between the lines to determine a character's motivation and personality, to discover themes, and to identify the main points in informational texts is what comprehension is all about.

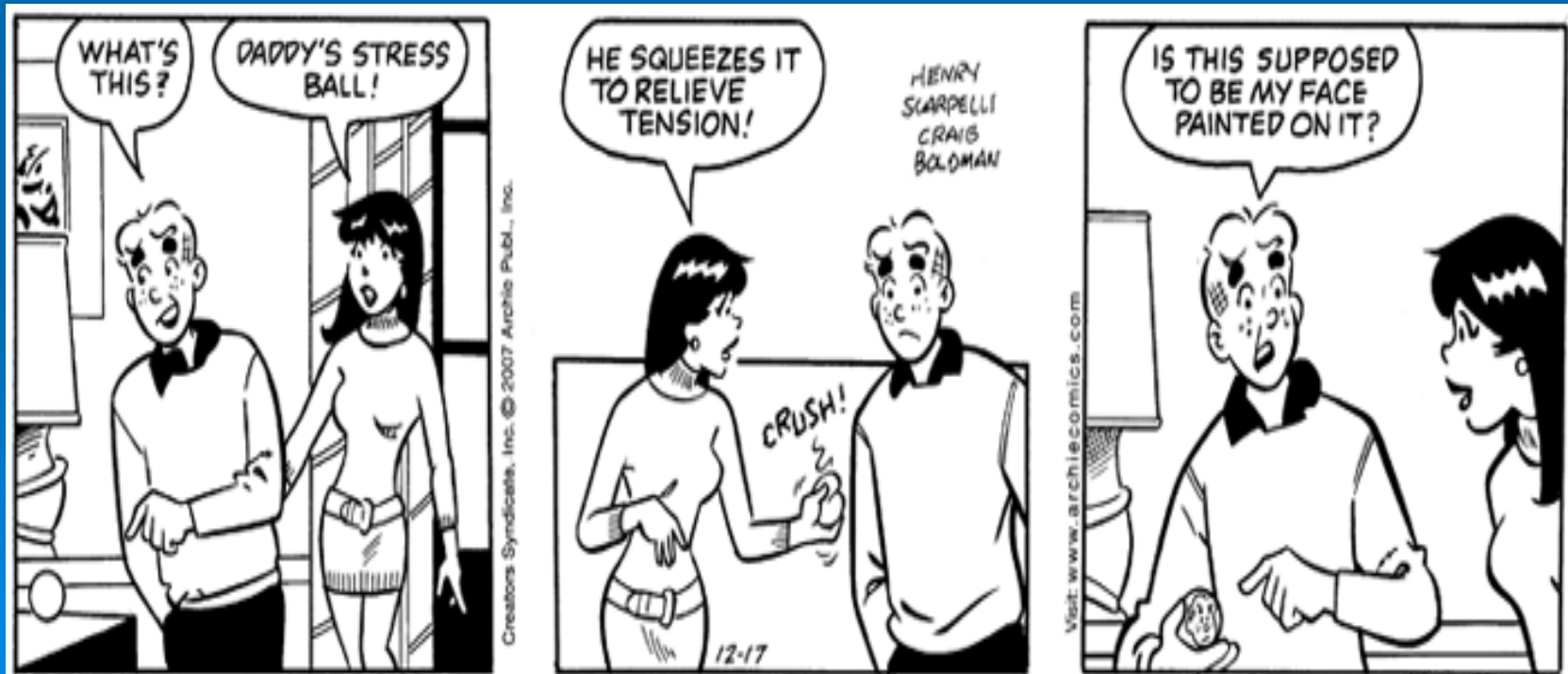


Reading Between the Lines

What do you know?

What have you learned?

What can you infer?





Reading Between the Lines



What Good Readers Do When They Infer

- Predict and revise predictions as they read.
- Weave their background knowledge and information into the text to answer questions they continuously pose during reading.
- Evaluate characters' decisions, motivations, talk, and the author's themes.
- Draw conclusions about people, conflicts, settings, and information.
- Interpret the book, basing interpretations on their own experiences and the author's words.
- Connect what they know to what they are learning as they read and adapt their background knowledge to the new understandings they've gained.

What have you learned?

- What is an inference?
- Why is it important that you can make inferences?

